

BATTERY USEABLE ONLY IN A FIRE/SMOKE DETECTOR UNIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the general art of
5 smoke and fire detectors, and to the particular field of
batteries for smoke and fire detectors.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

It has been well documented that smoke and fire
detectors and alarm systems save countless lives. Most such
10 devices have some sort of battery. The battery can be a
primary source of power for the device or it can serve as a
backup source of power.

Whether the battery is the primary source of power or a
backup power source, the battery will only work if it is
15 present in the device and in good operating order.

The art has examples of systems intended to check the
power level of a battery used in a fire/smoke detector. The
art also has systems for detecting a missing battery as
well.

20 While these systems are effective, there is still a
problem that is not considered by these devices. The

inventor has discovered that some people tend to remove the
battery from a fire/smoke detector to use the battery for
some other purpose, then forget to replace the battery. For
example, children playing a game may find the battery in
5 their game becomes low, and may desire to replace that
battery. However, if no other battery is readily available,
these children may be tempted to pirate a battery from
another device. In some cases, the inventor has found that
people will be tempted to pirate the battery from the smoke
10 detector to replace the battery in the system they are
presently using.

Of course this is dangerous since loss of the battery
may endanger the operation of the fire/smoke detector.

Therefore, there is a need for a means for preventing
15 removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector.

A counter consideration for providing a means for
preventing removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector
is that the battery should be replaceable when needed. That
is, the battery cannot be locked into the fire/smoke
20 detector, but must be removable when needed to replace the
battery or to otherwise service the detector.

Therefore, there is a need for a means for preventing
removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector but which
will permit removal of the battery when it is proper to do

so.

However, in order to be most useful, the means used to prevent pirating of a battery from a fire/smoke detector should not require significant modification of the 5 electrical circuit already existing in a fire/smoke detector. This will permit existing units to use the battery.

Therefore, there is a need for a means for preventing removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector but which 10 will permit removal of the battery when it is proper to do so and which can be used with electric circuits that already exist in presently available fire/smoke detectors.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is a main object of the present invention to provide 15 a means for preventing removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a means for preventing removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector but which will permit removal of the 20 battery when it is proper to do so.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a means for preventing removal of a battery from a fire/smoke detector but which will permit removal of the

battery when it is proper to do so and which can be used with electric circuits that already exist in presently available fire/smoke detectors.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 These, and other, objects are achieved by a battery having special terminals on one face of battery rather than on an end of the battery. The face-located terminals of the battery are sized and shaped in the manner of existing end-located terminals so the terminals on the electric circuit in an existing fire/smoke detector unit do not need to be modified and the battery embodying the present invention can 10 be used in place of existing batteries in connection with the fire/smoke detector. Thus, the battery embodying the present invention is a single function battery and is not useful for any purpose other than the special terminal 15 fire/smoke detector; however, it will readily be accommodated by circuits in existing fire/smoke detector units so no changes or modifications are required to use the battery of the present invention in an existing fire/smoke 20 detector unit.

Using the battery embodying the present invention will permit the battery to be used in a fire/smoke detector and to be replaced as needed, and will permit the battery to be

used in existing units, but will prevent that battery from being used for any purpose other than to power the fire/smoke detector. The battery embodying the present invention is a single function battery. This will prevent 5 someone from pirating the battery from a fire/smoke detector and then leaving the detector without a battery.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a battery adapted for use with a smoke and/or fire detector embodying the present 10 invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the battery shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the battery shown in Figure 1 in combination with a connection terminal 15 of a circuit used in a fire/smoke detector unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

20 Referring to the Figures, it can be understood that the present invention is embodied in a single function battery 10 that is used in a fire/smoke detector, and can only be

used in such a device. Battery 10 is a nine-volt battery in some forms, but can be other voltages if desired. Battery 10 can be any form of battery, including, but not limited to, an alkaline battery, a mercury battery, or the like.

5 It is also noted that while the present disclosure is directed to a fire/smoke detector unit, other units, including CO detectors, burglar alarm units, and the like, are to be included in the scope of the present disclosure. Battery 10 can be used as a primary power source for such a 10 unit or can be a backup power source without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

15 Battery 10 comprises a body unit 12 which has a first end 14, a second end 16, and a longitudinal axis 18 which extends between the first end 14 and the second end 16. Body unit 12 further comprises a first side edge 20, a second side edge 22, and a transverse axis 24 which extends between the first side edge 20 and the second side edge 22. Body unit 12 further comprises a first face 30, a second face 32, and a thickness dimension 34 which extends between the first 20 face 30 and the second face 32.

 All of the sides, ends, faces and edges are planar and open except first face 30.

 A first terminal connector 40 is a spring-clip type connector and is located on the first face 30 of the body

unit 12. First terminal connector 40 is sized and shaped to be adapted to be electrically connected to an associated terminal connector 40A in a circuit C of a fire/smoke detector unit F.

5 A second terminal connector 42 is a terminal that is sized and shaped to be associated with and accommodated in a spring-clip type connector and is located on the first face 30 of the body unit 12. Second terminal connector 42 is spaced apart from first terminal connector 40 in the direction of longitudinal axis 18 of the body unit 12.
10 Second terminal connector 42 is adapted to be electrically connected to an associated terminal connector 42A in circuit C of fire/smoke detector unit F.

15 Circuit C is well known to those skilled in the art, and thus will not be discussed. The terminals 40A and 42A are also well known and are common to fire/smoke detector circuits. These terminals generally accommodate associated terminals on the end of a battery used in such circuits. Thus, the fire/smoke detector circuit in an existing
20 fire/smoke detector need not be changed to accommodate battery 10.

It is understood that while certain forms of the present invention have been illustrated and described herein, it is not to be limited to the specific forms or

arrangements of parts described and shown.